

うるしの美 | Expressions of Urushi  
Galerie Taménaga Tokyo Saturday, 3 October - Sunday, 1 November 2026



Galerie Taménaga Tokyo is pleased to present *Expressions of Urushi*, on view from Saturday, 3 October to Sunday, 1 November 2026. Focusing on urushi (lacquer) as both material and traditional technique, the exhibition brings together six artists whose practices unite exceptional artistry with technical mastery: Shingo Muramoto, Ichizo Ino, Wei Nan, Haruka Sōtome, Mine Tanigawa and Shoko Taruma.

Grounded in a deep understanding of urushi and of the techniques passed down across generations, the works gathered here show each artist pursuing a distinct direction. All six have devoted many years to refining their practice, cultivating a high level of technical expertise. Engaging intimately with urushi and other materials, they draw out the inherent qualities of each, and by bringing unencumbered ideas and a rich imagination to bear, they arrive at original forms that open new possibilities for the medium.

Shingo Muramoto explores the coexistence and symbiosis of nature and humanity through lustrous, light and delicate forms made with bamboo and urushi. Wei Nan works with leather, using urushi to preserve the beautiful curved surfaces that emerge through chance and spontaneity. Haruka Sōtome draws a connection between urushi and lipstick, exploring their shared qualities through works centred on the motif of lips. Shoko Taruma fuses fluid, liquid-like forms with *in'ei*, the shadow and shade long valued in Japanese aesthetics, realising this synthesis in contemporary sculpture. Making his first appearance at Galerie Taménaga, Ichizo Ino uses wood carving and urushi to give form to the gentle warmth of familiar motifs such as children and cats, while Mine Tanigawa, also exhibiting

with the gallery for the first time, layers urushi onto ephemeral shapes born of drawing, holding transience and permanence in delicate balance.

These emerging artists breathe new life into one of Japan's most celebrated artistic traditions. We warmly invite you to discover the ambitious and compelling works they have created for this occasion.

### **Shingo MURAMOTO / 村本 真吾**

Born in Ishikawa Prefecture in 1970, Muramoto completed a master's programme in lacquer art at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts. He is skilled in the dakkatsu kanshitsu (hollow dry lacquer) technique used for Buddhist statue-making since the Nara period. Combining this technique with bamboo and urushi, he creates works that bring together glossy surfaces, elegant forms, and a sense of lightness that seems to float in the air. By bending bamboo, stretching cloth over it, shaping it, and applying urushi, chance and necessity harmonise to produce beautiful curved surfaces. Applied in many layers, the urushi becomes more lustrous and vivid the more it is polished, giving rise to rich expression. Taking inspiration from forms found in nature, such as branches and leaves, he explores the coexistence and symbiosis of nature and humanity.



### **Ichizo INO / 伊能 一三**

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1970, Ino completed a master's programme in lacquer art within the Department of Crafts at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts. His practice is rooted in mokushin kanshitsu (wood-core dry lacquer) and tōso (clay-and-paste modelling), techniques used by artisans since the Nara period. He carves the rough outline of familiar motifs such as children and cats out of wood, then applies many layers of urushi over this core. This allows him to achieve both the rich sense of volume unique to wood carving and the delicate expressiveness that urushi brings. His work may be, as the artist himself puts it, "something like a very personal Buddhist statue". His pieces have an extremely tranquil presence, gently enveloping the viewer with a deep charm that brings a sense of calm to everyday life.



### **Wei Nan / 隗 楠**

Born in Beijing, China in 1994, Wei completed a doctoral programme in lacquer art at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts. Working primarily with leather, she explores new possibilities in urushi art through form and vitality. She pulls and wrinkles the material, then fixes the beautiful curved surfaces that emerge by chance, producing striking and richly expressive forms. Her palette centres on a deep, glossy black and a powerful red. Making use of the suppleness of leather and the brilliance of urushi, she captures the mystery and energy of the natural world, from flowers blooming to the movement of water.



### **Haruka SŌTOME / 五月女 晴佳**

Born in Tochigi Prefecture in 1987, Sōtome completed a master's programme in crafts within the Department of Arts and Culture at Tohoku University of Art and Design, followed by a programme at the Kanazawa Utatsuyama Craft Workshop. She works primarily in urushi, with lips as her motif. Just as lipstick expresses individuality and beauty while protecting the lips, urushi both adorns and protects a surface. She is drawn to this dual nature, at once "beautifying" and "concealing". Makeup can give a person emotional armour, and in the same way she uses urushi to express inner conflict and desire, creating works that explore the interplay between surface beauty and inner complexity. In 2023, her work was featured in the main visual of a television commercial for Mode Gakuen.



## Mine TANIGAWA / 谷川 美音

Born in Kyoto Prefecture in 1988, Tanigawa completed a master's programme in lacquer art at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts. After graduating, she worked at an art production company before leaving to resume her own artistic practice around 2016. She is currently based in Kyoto, where she continues to work as an artist. In 2021, she received the Kyoto City New Artist Award. Recent notable activities include the group exhibition *Urushi Fūdōtō: Expressions of Kyūshitsu Racing Through the Present* (2023, Wajima Museum of Urushi Art, Ishikawa Prefecture), *Urushi Now: Contemporary Japanese Lacquer* (2026, V&A Museum), the solo exhibition *A Cycle of Actions for Knowing* (2025, JILL D'ART GALLERY), and a commissioned work for Terminal 1 of Narita International Airport (2026).



## Shoko TARUMA / 柞磨 祥子

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1991, Taruma completed a master's programme in crafts (lacquer art) at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts. Japanese aesthetic sensibility has long cherished nature while finding beauty in darkness. Captivated by this tradition and by the unique depth of black urushi, Taruma expresses in contemporary sculpture a fusion of liquid-like, free-flowing form with in'ei, the shadow or subtle gradation of darkness into which that form seems to dissolve. When her work was exhibited in a room featuring Kanō school fusuma paintings designated as Important Cultural Properties, the dim light heightened the allure and presence of the urushi's lustre. More recently, she has produced works that harmonise urushi with Imari and Jingdezhen porcelain, drawing the enduring traditions of Japan and East Asia into her own artistic style.



## **Galerie Taménaga Co., Ltd.**

Galerie Taménaga was founded in 1969 in Ginza as a gallery specializing in Impressionism through to contemporary art. Over more than half a century since its establishment, the gallery has introduced numerous masterworks to museums and collectors both in Japan and abroad.

The gallery expanded with the opening of its Paris and Osaka spaces in 1971, followed by Kyoto in 2021. In September 2025, Galerie Taménaga relocated from Ginza—its place of origin—to Minami-Aoyama (Omote-sando), significantly expanding its exhibition space to approximately three times its previous size, establishing a new hub for contemporary art presentation.

Today, the gallery presents works by artists from around the world across its locations. In recent years, it has increasingly provided opportunities to showcase Japanese artists as well, playing an active role in the contemporary art field.

### **【Exhibition Details】**

“うるしの美 | Expressions of Urushi”

**Exhibition period:** Saturday, October 3 – Sunday, November 27, 2026

**Venue:** Galerie Taménaga Tokyo

6-5-39 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062, Japan

**Hours:** Mon–Sat 11:00–19:00 / Sun & Public Holidays 11:00–17:00

**Website:** <https://www.tamenaga.com/en/exhibition/8151/>

### **【Contact】**

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